

Growing Tomatoes Indoors 'Demanding'

Dear Plant Doctor: Is it possible to grow tomatoes in my home over the winter? I have several plants 12-18 inches tall, and one of them is getting blossoms.

Would I be wasting my time tending these plants in a sunny kitchen window?

I have been reading your column only a few weeks, but have found it interesting and helpful. Before spring, how about some tips for those of us who tend small gardens. Thanks for your help.

THE PLANT DOCTOR

C. BRUCE WILLIAMS
Extension Area
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added strength to withstand what must have been a terrible blow. The trees are at least 14 years old and appear fully mature.

Any comment you may have will be appreciated.

Answer: Thank you for your letter. However, I cannot identify the tree species you are growing from the leaves you enclosed. There are hundreds (possibly thousands) of species of woody ornamentals in eastern North Carolina and I only know the most common species.

I will be glad (as will any NCSU Cooperative Extension agent) to send a sample of your plant material to the North Carolina State University Herbarium for positive identification. If you would bring a small branch of the tree to my office, I will make sure that you get a positive identification.

Most trees are pretty tolerant of

temporary adverse environmental conditions. I am sending you two publications that I think you will find helpful. They are *Grounds Management for Home Gardeners* (M.A. Powell, Horticulture Information Leaflet #612) and *Pruning Shade Trees and Repairing Their Injuries* (USDA, Home and Garden Bulletin #83).

You can obtain these publications at your local Cooperative Extension Service office or by sending me your request and a SASE.

Dear Plant Doctor: I am interested in growing mosses in my Japanese garden. Where can I get information on this subject?

Answer: Mosses are a fascinating subject. You may want to find an old copy of *Mosses with Hand-Lens and Microscope* by A.J. Grout for reference and identification.

On a recent trip to Atlanta, I discovered a company that specializes in selling and cultivating different mosses. For a small fee, they will provide you with an excellent publication on the culture and care of mosses.

Contact them at Mostly Mosses Inc., 130 Sandy Drive, Stockbridge, Ga. 30281, or phone (404)474-5820.

Send your gardening questions to *The Plant Doctor*, P.O. Box 109, Bolivia, N.C. 28422.



Students Donate Food

Leland Middle School students Ashley Burton (left) and Patrick Robbins pack food boxes for delivery to needy families this Thanksgiving. Students donated 2,259 food items, led by the sixth grade with 713 items. The Student Council sponsors the yearly holiday season food drive. Names of recipient families are provided by counselors, teachers and students. Classes also decorated containers in which to deliver the food, with Sondra North's seventh grade class making the first-place train. Velma McKinnon's fourth grade made a picnic box that placed second.

Even though tomatoes are self-pollinated, plants grown indoors require that flowers be jiggled in order for the pollen to be transferred to the stigma (female part of the flower). Commercial greenhouse tomato growers use fans or trellis systems that jiggle plants during the morning hours to ensure pollination and good fruit set.

Dear Plant Doctor: We have four thorn trees growing in our yard. I have never seen thorn trees like this before. I have enclosed leaves for you to examine.

This spring, worms denuded the trees. Later in the summer, leaves appeared again. This is remarkable to me!

Do you have experience with trees which have lost all their leaves in the early summer and then leafed out again?

I fertilized the trees early this fall hoping that this might give them

Coastal Museum To Close For Winter

The Museum of Coastal Carolina at Ocean Isle Beach will close for the winter season after this weekend, according to the museum's founder.

Saturday and Sunday will be the final days the museum will be open to the public until it reopens in March, said Ocean Isle Beach Museum Foundation President Stuart Ingram.

Ingram said more than 13,000 people have visited the 7,500-

square-foot facility since it opened May 25.

"If everything works out we're going to try to expand the building next year," Ingram said. "We need more space now."

The museum is located at the corner of Third and Laurinburg streets at Ocean Isle Beach.

It features displays of marine life, sea shells, wildlife common to the coastal region and historic artifacts.

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